



# Newnham News

Friday 10 November 2023

Headteacher: Mr Edward Ferguson

Website links:

[Maths/calc policy](#)

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Dear parents/carers,

You will have to forgive me but this week is a paean to the staff.

In the current educational climate of intense scrutiny and accountability, of endless straws being added to the camel's back, of the profound care that children need and the responsibility of keeping so many precious young souls safe, educated and reassured, I am easily overwhelmed by the amount of creativity, professionalism, resilience, dedication, kindness, altruism and warmth that the staff bring to the school each day, not to mention the unbelievable amount of hard work they carry out. Thank you all.

We are delighted to be able to welcome a new staff member to this fantastic team. Having completed the interviews for the vacant Office Administrator post, I am pleased to announce that Emma Laughlin, who has a child in Year 6, will be starting with us in December. This will coincide with the retirement of our wonderful and longstanding finance manager, Lynda Scott.

Finally, we have two charity days coming up. Next Friday is Children in Need, and we will be asking children to come in to school wearing something spotty and to bring in a small donation. On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December, there is Save the Children's Christmas Jumper day; the outfit for that one is in the title!

Thank you for reading the newsletter this week. I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Kind regards  
Eddie Ferguson

## Diary Dates

Children in Need.....	17 Nov
PTA Coffee and Chat 8.30-9.30am.....	17 Nov
Flu vaccinations whole school.....	21 Nov
<b>e-Safety online workshop 8-9.30pm .....</b>	<b>21 Nov</b>
Christmas Jumper Day.....	7 Dec
Rec and KS1 performance 2pm .....	12 Dec
Rec and KS1 performance 9.30am.....	13 Dec
Music Festival 6.30-7.30pm .....	15 Dec
Last day of term .....	20 Dec

## Anti-bullying week

Next week (13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> November) is Anti-Bullying Week, a national awareness week held annually to highlight bullying and consider the steps we can take to stop it. During the week, children will be involved in assemblies, including one by Cambridge United, which talk about how to identify bullying and the importance of speaking out to a trusted adult. Within classes, children will be involved in age-appropriate discussions and activities about the forms of bullying, why people may bully and how it makes people feel. The Anti-Bullying Alliance have created some resources for parents. This includes information about bullying, tips about what to do if you're worried about bullying and tools to help you talk to your children about bullying. You'll find the parent information pack attached to this email.

## Drawing Assembly

We had a whole school drawing assembly (including adults) this week during which we all drew Mrs Palmer's bike from observation using the continuous line drawing technique.



A continuous line drawing is all about keeping your pencil touching the paper. We looked at an example of a sketch that uses line drawing by artist Donald Rodney who was an important figure in the Black British Arts Movement and whose work covered issues about racial injustice and identity - see below.

If you'd like to have a go at continuous line drawing at home here's a link to a Tate Kids resource

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/make/paint-draw/make-continuous-line-drawing>



Example of Donald Rodney's work (*left*), continuous line drawings by Annabel (*top right*) and Bertie (*bottom right*), Year 3.

### Classroom news:

#### Reception

In Reception this week, we have been looking at the globe and how that information is transferred onto maps in atlases. We then looked at where each family in our class comes from and marked those places on the world map. We celebrated that the families in Reception come from at least 20 different countries from across the world and how wonderful it is for us to be together here in Reception, in Newnham.

#### KS1

This week KS1 have been writing recounts about their experience of the firework displays, last weekend at Newnham Croft or at Midsummer Common. Year 1s were encouraged to use capital letters and full stops with the appropriate time conjunctions for each sentence and the Year 2s were reminded to add powerful verbs and adjectives to make their sentences even more exciting. In addition, both year groups thought about their senses too and which sense was impacted by the firework displays. In Maths, Year 1s have been learning about symmetry and all the names and properties of 2-D shapes. Year 2s have been working on number facts and bridging numbers to 10 to support them when adding 2-digit numbers to 1 or 2-digit numbers. In History, all classes have been thinking about the Gunpowder Plot and how all the plotters decided to get the gunpowder into the Houses of Parliament. In PE, all children practised different rolls; egg rolls; forwards rolls and teddy bear rolls. In PSHE, as part of our Managing Safety and Risk module, we've been talking about when it is appropriate to provide and say our full name, address and telephone number. Could we ask that over the next few days, that you help your child with teaching them these pieces of information, as it is vital for them to know. As the weather is getting colder and wetter, please may we remind all children to wear warmer layers, such as trousers, long sleeved tops and waterproof coats. All E-books have been added to the Big Cat Portal and ready for your child to read with you. Well done for a hardworking week KS1.

#### Year 3

Year 3 have worked really hard throughout the week. In our History session, they enjoyed using pictures to find out more about how the Ancient Egyptians lived and what is the same nowadays and what is different. In our Maths sessions, the children worked on converting units of measure for length and mass. In our English sessions, the children continued to enjoy some of the Indian Folk Tales in Seasons of Splendour by Madhur Jaffrey and worked on adding prepositional phrases to clauses and sentences. In our Science session, they enjoyed investigating how different surfaces affect how far a toy car can move.

#### Year 4

In English, we have been writing in character in the style of Nadia Shireen, author of the funny Grimwood series. In Maths, we finished working on addition and subtraction methods, for the time being, and focused on doubling and halving numbers. In DT, we recapped running and cross-stitching skills in preparation for our textiles project linked to our Ancient Egypt History topic. In PE, we enjoyed building up our core and arm strength in a warm-up game, which also required us to use tactics and began working on a short gymnastics routine with a partner linking movements and balances inspired by Egyptian Hieroglyphics. Thank you for your continued support with your child's reading aloud to an adult daily at home and with spelling and times tables practice. Please find this week's spellings attached.

#### Year 5

In Maths, we finished our fractions unit, focusing on adding and subtracting fractions (and how to use equivalent fractions to ensure the denominators are the same when doing this). We then moved onto a multiplication and division unit, exploring common multiples and factors. In English, we finished our short stories, using both self- and peer-editing techniques, and then began our new topic centred around the book of short stories SHORT! by Kevin Crossley-Holland. In Science, we looked at how to identify and classify living things (including microorganisms, plants and animals), using their observable characteristics.

#### Year 6

This week we have started many new topics such as our netball topic in PE and people also attended Panathlon Challenge in Coleridge and they won gold. We did identification portraits in Art. In English we have been writing pieces about our class book "There's a Boy in the Girls' bathroom". This week in Maths we could choose what topics we wanted to cover and there was a lot of suggestions. We are looking forward to Forest School.

### **School Meals**

The three weekly menu rota is attached. **As we enter the colder months, we have removed sandwiches from the menu and all main courses will be hot food. Please share this information with your children to avoid disappointment.** Next week's menu will be Week 1. The cost of a school meal is £2.50.

### **Music Festival**

The next Music Festival will be on **Friday 15th December from 6.30-7.30pm** in the school hall. The concert will feature a Christmas performance from our very own Newnham Croft Orchestra and will be followed by festive drinks. Note the evening start time due to the hall being in use earlier in the day.

Any child learning a musical instrument, whether privately or in school, is welcome to sign up to play to our small, friendly audience. Please sign up by Thursday 14th December <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/173f4LhCGJ5rlll9wKocqL0eSPMg7Uw495lpm5L-k20k/edit?usp=sharing>

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter, a copy of which can be found on our school website: [www.newnhamcroft.cambs.sch.uk](http://www.newnhamcroft.cambs.sch.uk).

### **PTA NEWS**

#### **Fireworks Night**

Thank you to everyone who was involved in Fireworks Night – it was another fabulous evening, raising spirits and funds. We were delighted to see so many volunteers on the day, both new and familiar faces. The total money raised is around £1800, but this event means so much more to us than money, it's a true highlight of the PTA calendar. A special thank you to Louise Brayshaw, who has coordinated this event for the past several years, this year being her last one. She has worked hard on these events to keep them fun, profitable and safe, and we will miss her input next year! Another big thank you to Mr Jach for arranging such a wonderful firework display and also to the staff who gave up a huge chunk of their Saturday to come and lend a hand.

#### **Coffee and Chat**

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November brings another PTA Coffee and Chat – stay after drop off for a coffee and a sweet treat in the playground. From 8.30am – 9.30am.

#### **Christmas trees now on sale!**

The PTA are delighted to be selling wonderfully-fresh, locally grown Christmas trees again this year, with a new fully online order form. Click here to order now <https://app.classlist.com/events/#/events/view/1065221380>.

Trees can be collected from school on Fri 1st Dec and Sat 2nd Dec. We are also offering delivery if you live within 1 mile of the school. Orders must be placed by midnight on the 24th November. Any questions, email [dani@meeprophone.com](mailto:dani@meeprophone.com)  
Christmas tree help

We would be very grateful for help to spread the word about our fundraiser by sharing the image attached to the newsletter with WhatsApp groups, friends and neighbours, especially those who may be expecting a paper leaflet. We'd also encourage you to print out a poster and display it in your window if you are able to. Thank you for your help with this.

We are also looking for volunteers to help distribute the trees on Saturday 2nd December. This is a fun way to meet a few new faces and get a bit of exercise! We are looking for people who are willing to deliver trees by car and also by foot using the school wheelbarrows/cargo bikes. If you can help, please email [dani@meeprophone.com](mailto:dani@meeprophone.com) or sign up by going to Classlist and clicking on the sign-up sheet attached to the event.